

County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health
OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Thursday, October 22, 2009

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note that the minutes are a brief summary
and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

Jerry Lubin, Chair, Presiding

I. Call to Order – Jerry Lubin

The presiding Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call – Canetana Hurd

Attendance recorded as follows:

- Absent Excused: Lana Brody, Barry Perrou, Victoria Sofro, and Phillip Chen

III. Approval of Minutes – Jerry Lubin

The minutes for the month of September 24, 2009 were adopted with corrections. (Huffman/Sosa)

IV. Chair's Report – Jerry Lubin

Executive Committee Meeting Highlights – Larry Gasco, Vice Chair

- Greg Thompson, Commissioner, provided an overview of his conversation with Dr. Shaner pertaining to receiving data for persons with both physical and mental impairments. An amount less than 5% reported by the department is probably not accurate because of there is no system to identify both impairments. Dr. Shaner and Mr. Thompson discussed several possible data collection mechanisms that may be used to gather accurate data for this unique population.
- George Caballero, Commissioner reported working on an process to interview both contract and non contract agencies hoping to get speakers to present at the full meeting to discuss the challenges of promoting interest in older adult careers.
- DMH Reorganization – The department is in the process of an organizational change. Dr. Southard discussed the challenges of the process. Terry Lewis, Executive Director will be supervised by Dr. Southard as of October 13, 2009. Jerry Lubin,

Commission Chair and Dr. Southard meet weekly to discuss the needs of the department; Ms. Lewis will join both Dr. Southard and Mr. Lubin for the weekly meeting.

- Executive Committee Presentation – Cathy Warner, Deputy Director, Adult System of Care Bureau gave an extensive and comprehensive report on the successes of the bureau as well as the challenges facing the bureau. Mr. Gasco commended Ms. Warner for her candor and delivering a balanced report.
- Transfer of Alcohol and Drug Programs Administration to DMH – The final discussion was made on the transfer and the decision was no. However, both the Alcohol and Drug Program and Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commissions have merged.

MHC/SAAC Chair Meeting – The meeting was held October 13, 2009. The group discussed several issues:

- Strategic Plan – ways to meet the accelerated the process
- Preparation for November 19 Public Hearing on Innovations
- How can SAACs create new things to help clients come to the meetings?

Introductions were made from the audience.

V. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Huffman – Ms. Huffman welcomed Dorothy Banks, SAAC 6 member to the meeting. Ms. Banks is shadowing Ms. Eddie Lamon for the leadership role of Co-Chair of SAAC 6. Ms. Huffman displayed a resource directory produced by the department's Patient's Rights office. The directory covers resources in each service area and Ms. Huffman would like copies available for commissioners.

ACTION – Staff make available to commissioners the resource directories from Patient's Rights office.

Ms. Huffman discussed a competitive process recommended by the MHSA Housing Advisory Board because some sponsors have dropped out of the RFP process. According to the housing report there are uncommitted funds available due to project sponsors withdrawing funding proposals. The advisory board recommended to fund projects that are at a high degree of readiness and target underserved populations or underserved geographic areas. Ms. Huffman submitted the following housing report for the month of August:

MHSA Housing Program

30 projects are actively participating in the MHSA Housing Program application process (see Attachment). The status of each project as of October 15, 2009 is shown below:

Initiating Service Planning/Technical Review Process

- Swarthy World Society
- New Genesis Apartments
- Avalon II Family Apartments
- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- Step Up on Hollywood
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Willis Avenue Apartments

Finalizing Service Plan for Posting

- Parkview on the Park Apartments
- KIWA Apartments
- PWC Family Housing
- Parker Hotel
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – To be Named Project

Public Posting in Process

- NoHo Senior Villas

Technical Submission under Review

- Menlo Family Housing
- 28th St. YMCA Residences
- Bobbi Owens Family Living Community
- Horizon Apartments

Application Submitted to the State

- Osborne Place Apartments
- Epworth Apartments
- Charles Cobb Apartments
- Figueroa Apartments

Approved for Funding by the State

- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Daniel's Village
- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Glenoaks Gardens

For various reasons, over the last couple of months some project sponsors have been compelled to withdraw their funding proposals. The Department recently sought recommendations from the MHSA Housing Advisory Board about how to utilize the newly uncommitted funds, and it was determined that the funding would be prioritized for previously approved projects that need additional funds and are willing to add additional MHSA units. Projects that are at the highest degree of readiness, as well as projects targeting under-served target populations and/or under-served geographic areas will receive priority within this category.

Housing Trust Fund

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund awardees, nine projects are in operation as of October 15, 2009. The remaining three projects include Mini Twelve Step, slated to open in winter 2011, and Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Downtown Women's Center, both slated to open in fall 2010.

On August 25, 2009, a Request for Information (RFI) was released to determine if there were any potential contractors with demonstrated capability and interest in providing on-site supportive services in permanent supportive housing or shared housing projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 or 5. The Department accepted completed questionnaires to the RFI on a continuous basis from August 25 through September 15, 2009. As of September 15, 2009, the Department was in receipt of 70 completed questionnaires. Based on a review of the questionnaires, there may be 7 organizations with eligible projects. The Department plans to ask these organizations for additional information at the end of October with the goal of entering into competitive negotiations with eligible entities in the near future.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) Funding

The Department continues to seek potential opportunities to work with local cities and governments who have received NSP funding to leverage this funding with MHSA Housing Program funding.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

The Department was recently awarded \$51,051 through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded by the Emergency Food and Shelter Program National Board; federal

stimulus funding administered at a local level by the Los Angeles County United Way. The funding is being utilized to provide rental and utility assistance and food and motel vouchers to mental health consumers in Service Areas 2, 4, and 6 who are homeless, as well as those who are non-traditional consumers of mental health services who may be in crisis due to the impact of the recession.

Commissioner Lubin – Jerry Lubin attended the Asian American training conference October 16, 2009. The focus was on older adults with an Asian American perspective. Sessions such as Addressing the Needs of FSPs, Psychotherapeutic Treatment, and Assessment and Treatment of Depression focused on innovative research that impacts older adults were outstanding.

Mr. Lubin attended the VOICE Awards; the benefits of mental health treatment recognized by the media from the entertainment industry.

Mr. Lubin reported, on behalf of Victoria Sofro, Connections for Life program and conference was recognized at the Productivity and Quality Awards on October 21, 2009 at the Music Center. Mr. Lubin commended Ms. Sofro for providing a table so that the program's participants were able to attend the event.

Mr. Lubin recommended Victoria Sofro and Lana Brody serve on the department's 50th Anniversary Celebration planning committee. Dr. Helen Wolff was also nominated to serve because of the long history she has as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Gasco – Larry Gasco thanked Terry Lewis, Executive Director, for inviting him to join her at the Latino Celebration sponsored by KCET. Judge Rudy Diaz, Family Court, was the honoree and the event was very nice.

Mr. Gasco discussed the availability of translation services at community meetings. The SAAC meetings do not have regular official translation services. The translation they do receive comes from members in the audience who volunteer. Mr. Gasco asked Susan Rajlal to check with Dr. Southard about making translation services available at the SAAC meetings. The lack of communication is discouraging and frustrating for people to attend meetings and cannot understand the speaker. The Latino population is approximately 52% of LA County's population.

Commissioner Askins – Dr. Howard Askins reported the Clinical Policy Committee meeting will be held October 28, 2009.

Commissioner Baron – Frank Baron attended the quarterly CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Board and Commissions) meeting in Folsom, California October 14-16, 2009. Larry Gasco and Terry Lewis also attended. Mr. Baron reported on the following meeting issues:

- The CALMHBC plans to produce an operating manual
- The scroll requested by Terry Lewis on behalf of the Commission CALMHBC members was presented to the family of Kymberli Kercher Smith. Ms. Kercher Smith was Secretary to the CALMHBC who suddenly passed away last month.
- 16 counties were represented at the meeting
- Several counties have integrated their ADPA (Alcohol and Drug Program Administration) programs with the mental health department and made a name change from Mental Health to Behavioral Services.
- 51% of the group is consumer/family

Commissioner Thompson – Greg Thompson attended a conference at USC “Passport to Recovery” that focused on judges doing more rehabilitation courts instead of sentencing people and working with probation to provide supervision. The conference take-a-ways were:

- The US spends about \$2.3 million on incarcerated individuals
- Approximately 67% end up back in prison
- It costs \$30-\$50 thousand for one prisoner per year

Commissioner Rabens – Ilean Rabens reported the Arts SMART is expanding to double its size. It is hoped the program expansion will help recidivism. David Brown, Artist, who participated in the initial Arts SMART, was appointed by the US government to represent US art in Brazil.

Commissioner Gilberg – Dr. Arnold Gilberg reported attending the SHARE dinner that honored Dr. Marvin Southard. Dr. Gilberg stated the department should be proud of Dr. Southard and what he does for the community.

Commissioner Sosa – Carlos Sosa requested a presentation on Veterans Services be given at a future Commission meeting. USC Social Work program is planning a conference for veteran’s redeployment and post deployment. There are three slots available for Commissioners on the planning committee.

ACTION – Report back to Commission at the next meeting when a veteran's presentation will be scheduled.

VI. **Departmental Report** – Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst. Ms. Rajlal discussed the following legislative bills of interest to mental health stakeholders that were either vetoed or passed and signed by the Governor:

Vetoed by Governor

AB 82 – would have expanded the authority of a Juvenile Court Judicial Officer to include orders regarding the administration of psychotropic medication to dependents of the Court.

AB 244 – would have expended the coverage for certain health care plans and insurance to include the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness and defined mental illness as any mental disorder defined in DSM IV (Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders).

Passed and Signed

AB 235 – defines a psychiatric emergency medical condition and includes admission and transfer to a psychiatric unit within a general acute care hospital or an acute care psychiatric hospital within the care and treatment of this condition. Basically, psychiatric hospitals can no longer turn away patients in crisis.

AB 1383 – allows for the collection of provider fees from hospitals and authorizes the department to make supplemental payments for certain services to private hospitals, non designated hospitals and designated public hospitals.

AB 1571 – requires local stakeholder planning groups to include veterans and reps from veterans' organizations; also requires the county to inform the Department of Veterans' Affairs of county plans for outreach and services to veterans.

AB 678 – authorizes each county to establish a Community Corrections Performance Incentives Fund and authorizes the State to allocate money to fund programs for probationers and requires outcome tracking.

DMH Public Relations – Kathleen Piche, DMH Public Relations Officer, unveiled the new logo for DMH branding. The intent was to

design something softer but contain the message hope, wellness, and recovery.

VII. Community and SAAC Chair Reports

SAAC 6 – Eddie Lamon, Co-Chair, discussed the situation at the SAAC regarding Spanish translations. The SAAC has a group of Spanish monolingual clients who sit at a separate table so they can listen to the volunteer interpreter. The entire SAAC wishes to merge group seating so they all participate in the meeting. If translations services are provided on a regular basis earphones will be provided so listeners can sit together at the same table.

Ms. Lamon introduced Dorothy Banks who will be attending future Commission meetings. Ms. Lamon is mentoring Ms. Banks to succeed as SAAC 6 Co-Chair.

A discussion took place regarding the SAAC reorganization. Ms. Lamon believes information given to the SAACs should be uniform because all communities need services such as law enforcement, schools, and health care.

VIII. Public Comments –

- Cindy Vitto – Discussed three issues: 1) lack of funding for training and new consumer advocates; 2) difficulties dealing with DMH regarding getting appointed as a representative to County Commission on Disability; 3) excessive delay in getting reimbursed for LACCC mailing.
- Henry Thomas – Owner of Joshua House, a homeless independent transition housing service that is faith-based. Its capacity has dropped and Mr. Jones would like to contract with DMH to provide housing for consumers who are transitioning out of hospitals and county jails.
- Jennifer Jackson – Certified Peer Advocate, Alternate Board Member California Network of Mental Health Clients supports Joshua House efforts; it is a safe and secure drug free place for consumers. Ms. Jackson announced she wrote a book, "The Streets My Cradle." Dr. Southard wrote a book review. Ms. Jackson proposed the following questions:
 1. Is there an official proposal form or format for contracting transitional housing services with DMH?
 2. Is there a request for a proposal and what are the funding cycles?
- Robert Coto – Supports veteran's services and shareholders participating in the MHSA Innovations Plan.

- Mark Marmatz – Made two announcements: 1) the State of Massachusetts requires that there be patients rights advocates in emergency rooms, and 2) there is a list of peer review crisis support centers on the National Empowerment Center website

IX. Meeting Adjourned

X. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION AND TIME CHANGE

**Wilshire Plaza – Grand Ballroom
3515 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Thursday, November 19, 2009
10:00 – 11:30 am**

**Public Hearing for the MHSA Innovations Plan to follow in
the Grand Ballroom
11:30 am – 2:45 pm**

**Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if
you need additional information**

Ch/ch